“Seek Peace & Pursue it.”
-Psalm 34

Sister Katie Keeley, OSB
(Nov. 8, 1935- Nov. 6, 2003)
carved this beautiful rendition
of Saint Scholastica.
The word “peace” is carved on the
staff in fifty different languages.
St. Scholastica is displayed in
Our Lady of Peace Chapel.
Message from Prioress

By Clare Carr, OSB, Prioress

Seek Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue

Dear Friends,

Little is known about St. Scholastica, the twin sister of St. Benedict (featured on our cover). We have only one story, written by St. Gregory the Great, that gives us a clue as to the kind of woman she was. Every year, the twins would visit each other in a house belonging to the monastery, a short distance from the entrance. On one particular visit they spent all day in conversation and prayer. As evening came, they shared their evening meal together and continued their conversation into the late hours of the night. When Benedict rose to leave, Scholastica begged him to stay so that they could continue to talk about the joys of heaven till morning. He, however, told her that he needed to leave. With that, she bowed her head and prayed, which brought on a thunderous storm. Benedict was disturbed with this ensuing event and exclaimed, God forgive you, sister! What have you done? Scholastica simply replied, When I appealed to you, you would not listen to me. So I turned to my God and He heard my prayer. Of course, Benedict stayed the rest of the night and it was reported that his sister Scholastica died three days later. Benedict was a holy man who lived by the rules, but this woman of prayer had greater influence. She had so looked forward to his visit that her love and desires were met by God. Hers was the greater love.

So often we find ourselves lost in the rules or the traditions we have always practiced. We can sometimes forget that we are always called to respond to the greater love.

Jesus knew this conflict. He often had to deal with the religious leaders of his time who found themselves locked into rigid expectations of the law that resulted in judging one group over another. There were many laws governing fasting, caring for others (on the Sabbath), food preparation and many more. Today we have religious groups, politicians and world leaders locked in a dynamic that also causes division. These divisions seem to be rooted in fear, prejudice and retaliation. We may ask ourselves how we can move beyond these old ways and discover What is the greater love?

May we go about our work seeking Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue.

Blessings,

Seek Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue

Words of Wisdom attributed to St. Scholastica

“I turned to my God and He heard my prayer.”

“Hers was a greater love...”

(from the Dialogues of St. Gregory)

Peace Banners on Display for Jubilee Year

During the 50th Jubilee Year, Our Lady of Peace Chapel walls will remain adorned with Sister Katie Keeley’s peace banners and her multi-language center hangings that proclaim, That peace may prevail on the earth.

“Peace begins with a smile.”

-Mother Teresa

Deepest Sympathy for the Loss of Sisters’ Family Members

In deepest sympathy we remember our dear sisters and their families who have lost loved ones.

Joseph Marie Jacobsen, OSB for the loss of her sister, Kathy Benavidez.

Therese O’Grady, OSB for the loss of her niece, Stacie Long.

“Peace is the first thing the angels sang.”

-John Keble
Celebration of New Novice Oblates
By Sister Marie Therese Summers, OSB

On October 10th in Our Lady of Peace Chapel these words rang out: “Listen with the ear of your heart, listen with all that you are.” Five oblate candidates were received as oblate novices at Noon Praise: Dana Cossey (Castle Rock), Kim Nipple (Denver), Joan Zishka (Centennial), Glorianna Mercado (Hugo), and Dixie Schull (Colorado Springs). These individuals have truly listened to the call to deepen their discernment and journey toward becoming oblate members of Benet Hill Monastery.

“And let them first pray together, that so they may associate in peace.”
-Rule of Benedict, Prologue 49

In the midst of song, psalms and a reading from the Holy Rule of St. Benedict they received the medal of St. Benedict and shared their reasons for taking this next step into the Novitiate. Each oblate novice voiced their genuine desire to grow deeper in their relationship with God and the sisters. They find solace and challenge in the values of hospitality, humility and stewardship. This next step invites them into a deeper relationship with their God which will flourish with support and encouragement from the sisters of this particular community. These individuals appreciate the expansive view and inclusivity that the sisters offer and want to be part of this energy. Following the ceremony, all were welcomed personally in a receiving line and celebrated with a special meal in the dining room.

Sister Josie Sanchez is Honored in Grand Junction
By Sister Anne Madeleine, OSB

It was a lovely surprise when Father Don Malin, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Junction, asked if the parish could celebrate Sister Josie Sanchez’s 60th Anniversary with her. Sister Josie and the two other Benedictines at Benet Hill’s Whitewater Mission attend Immaculate Heart of Mary where Sister Josie visits the sick and home-bound of the parish.

On August 23rd at the Sunday Liturgy, Sister Josie renewed her Benedictine promises. Sister Josie, along with Sisters Clare, Jan and Mary Colleen from Benet Hill Monastery and Sisters Mary and Anne Madeleine from Whitewater, sang the Suscipe. Sister Josie’s sister, Theresa and two brothers: Ted and his wife Darlene, and Richard and his wife, Josie and their great granddaughter, Deja drove across the mountains to the celebration. After Mass, parishioners and friends feasted in the parish hall with lunch and a special Tres Leche cake.

The people of the parish were honored to be witnesses to Sister Josie’s faithfulness of 60 years. The Sisters of Benet Hill are grateful to Father Don and the community of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish.
Religious Vocation and Universal Love

By Sister Mary Colleen, OSB

On October 1st we celebrated the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun and Doctor of the Church. St. Therese lived her life rejoicing in the awareness that God acts most powerfully by stooping down in mercy. God, like a loving parent, delights in helping the weak and struggling child. God loves us first and is the source of our love and goodness so that we can choose to become channels of God's own love.

Every Christian vocation is a call to love, a response to the One who is love. God's love is particular and universal. How do you know your vocation? Dorothy Day said: “You will know your vocation by the joy it brings you.”

In religious life we flourish by being planted in the soil of God's universal love. We are called to love people whom we would never have normally chosen. Our Benedictine charism reaches out to those who are often difficult to love, those who are hurt or wounded, and those whose attractiveness and beauty may be hidden at first sight. We must embody God's love for the seemingly unlovable.

It is a love that is limitless and that precedes us, sustains us and calls us along the path of life; a love rooted in an absolutely free gift of God.

A vocation is not only a commitment but it is a call to be authentic and flourish. Whatever approach we take to vocation, the focus of our attention must be love. Each and every vocation must be centered on love, because it is through love that we are united with God, who is love, and in whom all human life finds its fulfillment.

This understanding of love is the foundation for women interested in our community and gives them the opportunity to fall deeply in love with God and a safe home in which to find the freedom to be, to flourish, and to find internal joy. We are planted in the soil of God's universal love.

“Peace is not the absence of power.
Peace is the presence of love.”
-Sri Chinmoy

Joyful Celebration with Former Members

By Sister Anne Stedman, OSB

As we continue celebrating our 50th Jubilee, we reconnect with our past, renew relationships and reconcile differences. One of these celebrations included a special gathering with former members of our community.

Sixteen of our former sisters, who discerned a different life-journey, joined the Community on October 11th for a wonderful day of celebrating our 50th Jubilee Year. Glorious praise of hymnody and simple monastic psalmody filled the Spirit of Peace Oratory and Our Lady of Peace Chapel. We shared fun-filled memories, liturgical ministries during Eucharist, updates on each other’s lives and profound gratitude of being together as one. These were only a few highlights of the day.

Dotted line

During our continental breakfast, many of our former members gifted us with personal stories of memories and life experiences that were dear to their hearts. Gales of laughter and quiet tears were an integral part of the testimonies. Tours and trips to the cemetery were important to remember the past and celebrate the present. Following a delicious meal, prepared by our cooks and hosted by our sisters, we returned to the Chapel where we shared our Jubilee Video and present ministries.

The day culminated with a special Vesper service where we chanted psalmody, ‘telling our Benedictine story,’ and remembered the sixty women who have gone before us as we sang “Saints of God in glory, be with us, rejoice with us, sing praise with us and pray with us now.” In closing we offered a special prayer asking for forgiveness and gave a rose to each of our former sisters as a blessing of peace.

“Peace is not the absence of power.
Peace is the presence of love.”
-Sri Chinmoy
‘Nuns’ as Employers? A New Experience
By Carla Forinash, Assistant Manager

One Assistant Manager Shares Her Experience of Working at Sisters’ Thrift & Boutique

I have been working at Sisters’ Thrift & Boutique since it opened in September 2012. I was a little apprehensive in my job at first, because I had never experienced ‘nuns’ as employers. After I began working, I could see that the store was run like any other retail store. I saw how excited the sisters were about opening the store and began meeting some of them as they dropped by to shop or browse. The sisters frequently comment on how clean and organized the store is and express their gratitude for my work.

After I first began working at the store, I heard that the Prioress would be dropping by. I wasn’t sure what that meant—I didn’t know what a prioress was! I soon found out—The ‘head nun’ was coming to the store! Any worries I had quickly dissolved because Sister Clare is very gracious and extremely welcoming!

I enjoy working at Sisters’ Thrift & Boutique and it has been one of the most pleasant employment environments I have ever had. I feel supported by the sisters, the manager, the assistant managers, and additionally by the volunteer staff over these last three years. I feel comfortable and confident in my job and am happy to be part of the mission of Benet Hill Monastery through my work at Sisters’ Thrift & Boutique!

If you haven’t visited the store, please make time to shop for high quality items at very low prices. Find that unique Christmas gift or decorate your home. Find fashionable items in the clothing section—lots with the tags still on!

By Sister Clare Carr, OSB

A little over a year ago we hired our first Marketing Director, Cindy Costanza. We chose Cindy because of her dynamic personality and her years of volunteering, participating, and promoting our programs.

Fortunately for us, our monastery has been exposed to a number of our neighbors through her media connections and her efforts of making new contacts with vivacious joy and consummate professionalism. One new partnership Cindy made is with the Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Institute. Through this new partnership we are able to offer selected quality films which reflect our Benedictine values. After viewing the film we engage in dialogue and refreshments. (Please check our schedule of events on the website.)

It will be very difficult to fill Cindy’s shoes. We feel the loss of her presence every day and are most grateful for all the work she has done. Dear friend, keep us in the circle of your life!

“And the seed whose fruit is righteousness Is sown in peace by those who make Peace.”
-James 3:18

Saying Goodbye...

By Sister Clare Carr, OSB

Specials run weekly, so keep up with sales!

“Like” their Facebook page, join their email list, download the app, or get a REWARDS punch card for even more savings!

Benet Hill Mission Statement

We provide the sacred space of hospitality and the use of our human and material resources in education, spirituality and other viable ministries. We do this with all God’s people and with a special emphasis on the poor and women.

All Proceeds Support the Mission and Works of the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery

Cindy Costanza
The sisters had a beautiful day and a wonderful time! The weather was perfect and the area was clean and quiet. The sisters enjoyed being out, as well as being entertained by activities of people all over the park running and playing.

They were thrilled to get the bratwurst hot off the grill. Like most events, the dessert was the best: s’mores, ice cream treats, and even some pie. No one went away hungry. It was great to see so many sisters participate. Sister Jan took a few of us on a tour of the park; the rest stayed behind and continued to enjoy laughter and story telling.

Napkin Rings in our Archives?
By Sister Margaret Meaney, OSB

In August I attended conferences of The Society of American Archivists in Cleveland, Ohio. (I love those wonderful Clevelanders!) Day one started with the Research Forum, 23 presentations that ranged from metadata and aggregate control of scientific data to archiving of graffiti. I also toured the diocesan archive, listened to a talk on the private archive of the Biltmore Estate (most instructive) about special collections, (I’m glad to say the most dangerous things Benet Hill has in the archive are napkin rings,) best practices for volunteers, and more! I had a great time.

Conference for Subprioresses and House Coordinators
Sisters Jan and Francine attended the Conference for Subprioresses and House Coordinators October 19-23. They met at St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The theme was “Our Ministry of Loving Fidelity & Service”.

Leadership Conference for Women Religious
By Sister Ana Cloughly, OSB

Sisters Clare and Jan attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) August 11-15 in Houston, Texas. Steven Bevans, SVD spoke of four thirsts – the thirst for the water of integrity, the wine of hope, the nectar of justice and the elixir of beauty. The highlight of the assembly was having the past and current presidents and executive directors share some of the suffering, as well as the graces brought about through their engagement with the CDF doctrinal assessment and mandate.

The closing of the mandate was ritualized in prayer and discernment acknowledging the way our leadership satisfied our thirsts with dignity and hope for the future.
Sisters’ Picnic at Helen Hunt Falls
By Joanne Harrison, Oblate

“For the last two summers some of the sisters of Benet Hill Monastery have trekked up to the base of Helen Hunt Falls for a summer outing and picnic. Prompted by memories shared by the now departed Sister Sophie Glenski, oblate Jo Ann Harrison facilitates these summer outings. In years past, many of the sisters would take along a sack lunch and eat in the parking lot at the base of the falls. Sister Elizabeth Cogan shared she and many of the sisters had hiked all over the surrounding trails and knew them well.”

Creating Icons is More Prayer Than Art
By Sister Ana Cloughly, OSB

“One day, I was observing a sister as she casually ate her breakfast and looked out the dining room window. A random thought crossed my mind. This particular sister is one of the saints in our community and I thought it would be nice to make an icon of her. The thought surprised me and I laughed at myself. Later that day, I found an email from Sister Clare telling me about a class on painting icons offered through the Loretto Center in Denver. I laughed again and said to God, “I’m listening.”

For almost two years, our Oblate Joanne Harrison has been teaching watercolor painting to several of the sisters, Sister Margaret Meaney and me.

In August, Sister Margaret, Joanne and I spent an amazing day painting icons of Archangel Gabriel. Anne Emmons, our instructor, is a wonderful artist and iconographer in the old style using clay and natural pigments. Creating icons is more about prayer than art. We learned the basic language of iconography, and to complete our icons we used gold foil to create the halos. Our one day icon retreat only allowed us time to paint in watercolors. We did so joyously!”

This spot has grown popular and this year we shared it with many tourists, families, and children as well as two wranglers on horseback from a nearby dude ranch. The falls were abundant and beautiful; the rangers and park volunteers were welcoming and helpful.

“May God, the source of hope fill you with joy and peace.”
-Romans 15:13
In 1968, Mother Liguori Sullivan, the founding Prioress of Benet Hill Priory, invited some of the artists of the Monastery to what she called a ‘simple assignment.’ She envisioned the Stations of the Cross leading to St. Benedict’s Cemetery. After some discussion, Sisters Anselm Chastain, Sharon Murray, Evangeline Salazar and Julia Wilkinson embraced the project which would prove to be long, arduous, time-consuming, and ultimately fulfilling.

The group decided Sister Sharon should create an 18” by 24” sketch of each of the fifteen Stations of the Cross. Sister Anselm would prepare the wood, and Sisters Evangeline and Julia would collect the necessary wood carving tools. Mother Liguori provided the soft red wood used for constructing the pews in the chapel (at the old Chelton property). Sisters Anselm and Evangeline began carving the first two stations. With the work progressing slowly, other members of the community became involved. Sister Anastasia Wabs carved station nine, “Jesus falls the third time.” Other sisters helped with the carving. Sisters Anselm and Evangeline would initiate each station while others would carve and help remove excess wood. Sisters Katie Keeley, Benigna Haug, Sophie Glenski, Guadalupe Manchego, Marita Law, Mary Alice Guilfoil and Marian Belotti helped with carving. Sisters Evangeline and Anselm completed each station. The Stations of the Cross were completed in 1973 and placed on the trees encircling the cemetery.

Residing on the trees for 43 years, weather, bugs and woodpeckers rendered the Stations of the Cross unrecognizable. Sister Evangeline initiated a refurbishing project in honor of the community’s 50th Jubilee Year. With encouragement from the sisters and the help of friends and neighbors, especially Jim Buxton, Sister Evangeline renovated and restored each of the Stations of the Cross to their pristine beauty.

By Sister Marilyn Carpenter, OSB

Sister Marilyn Carpenter returns to the monastery for a ministry of grief companioning/counseling and education at Benet Hill, as well as in the Denver area.

“After a time out to facilitate our Benedictine Spirituality program in Denver, I am now available once again for both one-on-one and small group grief work as well as a healing prayer ministry. Please contact me at 719-429-7500 to set an appointment or to chat by phone. The first meeting is always free.

As a hospital chaplain, I specialized in ministry for over twenty years with oncology patients and facilitated groups for parents/grandparents who experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. During that time I also taught parish and organization groups to facilitate their own groups for grief work for any kind of loss/major life changes.

Until recently, I wrote articles once or twice a year for a national magazine called LIVING WITH LOSS and those magazines and articles are available at the monastery in my office. For my MA Psychology degree, I combined my theology and grief psychology experience and wrote a statistical thesis titled: THE BENEFITS OF RITUALIZING AT THE TIME OF MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH AND NEWBORN DEATH. For this I interviewed 50 couples (in groups) and did a one hour debriefing afterwards. The couples were so appreciative that from this group our DENVER SHARE support group was born. I continue the SHARE ministry today, mostly one-on-one, but would begin grief groups again with 8 - 10 interested persons.”

Contact: Marilyn Carpenter, OSB; smarilyn@benethillmonastery.org; 719-429-7500
Thirty one participants and eight staff members gathered in Our Lady of Peace Chapel at the Monastery on September 12th for the first BSFP (Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program) retreat. The focus of the day together was “Threshold.” The day included introductions, mixers, presentations, lectio, creation theology, sharing and the YouTube video entitled Breathe. The reflections of the participants tell the story...

Rev. Joanne Buchanan Brown shared how the Denver students realized they were in exactly the right place to be in BSFP at this particular time. Many of them were so grateful for the chance to experience the hospitality of the sisters, the beauty of the Monastery, and the time to be quiet and reflective in beautiful nature.

Global Online Student: Debra Avezzano said, “Visiting Benet Hill for the first time was a heartfelt experience. I feel that participating in the Global Online Program as well as living close enough to take advantage of the Retreat weekends is truly a gift; the best of both worlds. The best take away from the weekend was being sent out on the grounds to retrieve an object that represented God. As I walked the property I could feel the energy of many who had walked before me in search of a closeness to God. It was a profound experience that I will not forget. At one point I could feel someone’s breath on my neck, but of course no person was there. That’s when I looked down and saw the leaf. The wind had blown it to lay at my feet, and the wind was God. Up until then I had wondered how I would take the ‘wind’ back with me; I picked up the leaf and knew.”

Colorado Springs Student: Ruth Valdez shared, “I really was touched by the discussion on ‘threshold.’ I think my view of life has generally been linear. You keep moving forward while past experiences follow behind you. Like a train on a wedding dress, you kind of drag them along. When I contemplate my life through the view of thresholds I see where I need to leave behind and conclude some things of my past and move forward and step out in faith into my future. I may not know what to expect, but I know that something new is ahead of me.”

Global Online Student: Marty Faraguna stated, “For me the retreat was a deeper introduction to the community I am part of. It was important and I felt at home right away. I could open up with those at my table (who I had not known prior to the weekend) at a deeper level than I thought possible. The building, the grounds, the sisters and leaders I met all made it possible for me to know God wanted me here. The blessing we experienced was most profound and I will always remember it. When I looked into the eyes of those blessing each of us- I saw love and integrity. Thank you!”

Colorado Springs Student: Teresa Briese focused on the Youtube video Breathe. “It was so interesting and amazing to hear the name of Yahweh broken down into breaths and being awakened to the fact that the Spirit gives life in every breath. The part of the day that resonated with me the most and was the most touching was the exercise of going outdoors in nature and exploring what I could find/experience that God was like. …Going back and sharing this experience with the people at my table, who were all strangers to me, was affirming.”

Everyone coming to the monastery will be welcomed with a brighter Benet Lane. We have added five light posts on the drive with special Jubilee banners. These have been added to increase the safety for the sisters and guests who like to walk in the early mornings or evenings. Hopefully they will also enlighten those coming and going from evening classes. The banners feature our Benedictine values. Welcome to all.

“To be at peace we must first learn to accept ourselves. Coming to peace with who we are, what we have and what we do is the spiritual basis for the acceptance of others.”

- Joan Chittister
Alumnae Profile
By Karen Terbeek, Alumna of Benet Hill Academy

I graduated from Benet Hill Academy in 1974. My education with the sisters established a foundation for my future success in life. At this point in my career as a professional cellist, I find myself back at Benet Hill looking for a place to call my spiritual home. I first played on June 14th, at the 50th jubilee celebration Mass.

I have continued to be blessed to be part of the music at mass each Sunday. From this inspirational experience, I am continuing to give back as a mentor to young cellists and as a volunteer, playing cello at cancer centers and assisted living homes, and am looking for more opportunities. Knowing that I am able to touch peoples’ hearts with my cello is a pure gift from God.

Karen Terbeek

“There is always a certain peace
In being what one is,
In being that completely.”
-Ugo Betti

Baking at 4:30 am with Sister Lucy
By Erinn K. Graves, Daughter of Terry (Mary) Stapleton (Graves)

The dulcet strains of my alarm clock begin to chime. Time to start another 4th Sunday! After a shower, hair dry, and a quick bit of breakfast I’m off. Bundled up with my flashlight I walk through the woods toward the light of the main house. Sister Lucy thinks I’m crazy to walk, but I love the silence and the firework extravaganza of stars above my head; so many stars on a clear dark morning. I see Sister Lucy’s shadowed form standing behind the glass door to the kitchen.

Growing up my brother and I always heard about cinnamon rolls, sticky buns and brownies from my mom’s time at Benet Hill Academy. So when mom started bringing me out to Benet Hill after dad retired, I decided to ask if I could help and to learn how to make cinnamon rolls. “Can you be in the kitchen at 4:30 am?” was Sister Lucy’s question. “If I have a bed was my answer.” (Not wanting to be behind a wheel that early in the morning.)

Now, I arrive for/after dinner the night before and I stay in Jesu Rama (my favorite little retreat,) Abrahaven (spacious quiet,) or Subiaco (party time - wait I have to get up early!) versus my initial stay where I thought I’d just set up my sleeping bag in the main house parlor and was surprised with a room.

So now Sister Lucy and I talk, we bake, we drink coffee/tea, we solve the world’s problems, and disappear like baking ninjas by 7:45 am at the latest. Then it’s time for a quick hike or nap before mass. The rest is now 4th Sunday History. Whenever I can come and Sister Lucy is here, I’m her 4:30 am Sous Chef.

Benet Hill Hosts Benedictine Formation Conference
By Sister Mary Colleen, OSB

In August we hosted the American Benedictine Formation Conference planning session. The core team was elected in May at the American Benedictine Biennial symposium held in Schuyler, Nebraska. The core team coordinates the two following programs, BSWR and NADI, and plans the next American Benedictine Biennial Symposium.

The core team L to R: Sister Mary Colleen Schwarz, Vice Chair, (Colorado Springs, CO) Sister Sharon Haus, Chairperson (Yankton, SD), Sister Marcia Ziska, Treasurer, (Atchison, KS), and Sister Andrea Westkamp, Web Coordinator, (Bristow, VA), and Sister Stephanie Smith, Secretary (Erie, PA)
Mission Advancement Update
By Jennifer Malenky, Director of Mission Advancement

Happy Fall to all of our loyal friends and supporters of Benet Hill Monastery!
In the world of professional fundraising, fall is typically a very busy time as staff
are preparing various year-end appeals via traditional direct mail as well as
through other channels such as online giving. Benet Hill is no different, and this
year we will be asking for your support in more customized and specific ways.
Watch for your own personal invitation letter coming in the next month!

While most people are familiar with receiving invitations to give in the mail, we are also proud to partner
with Colorado Gives Day, coming up on Tuesday, December 8th. This statewide online giving campaign is
another wonderful way to make a gift to Benet Hill, and there is a modest incentive fund or "boost" which
increases the amount – and impact – of your gift. To learn more, visit www.coloradogives.org.

Also, if you haven’t already “liked” Benet Hill Monastery on Facebook, make sure you do so! We will be
featuring stories of lives changed and transformed forever from a connection to the monastery and
hope to inspire you with awe and wonder as we enter the season of giving and gratitude.

Speaking of gratitude, we thank each and every one of you
involved in supporting the ministry of fundraising at Benet Hill.
Your gifts are so vital to nurturing the ongoing ministries of the
sisters featured in the Review, as well as to the care of these
tireless women who dedicated their lives to others well past the
age of retirement. Thank you for helping us continue to share their
beautiful and timeless Benedictine values of prayer and hospitality
with the world. We are honored by your generosity.

**Planned Giving**
With the end of the tax year approaching it’s a great
opportunity to take stock of your family’s current and
future needs. Please consider making a planned gift to the
Monastery as you evaluate your financial future. There are
many ways to do so; the most common being a bequest or
specific amount designated by your estate. Another easy, no-
cost option is to make the Monastery the beneficiary of a life
insurance policy. For more information, visit our Website at
www.benethillmonastery.org or contact Jennifer Malenky:
jmalenky@benethillmonastery.org or call (719) 355-1633.

Did you know that you can
make a gift anytime online
on our web page?
Just go to
www.benethillmonastery.org
and click on “Donate”!

Sisters Mary McFadden and Madeline Franze, SSJ, Development Consultants, recently visited Benet Hill in
their ongoing work of strengthening the Mission Advancement program. Working with the Leadership
Council and Jennifer Malenky, they facilitated a focus group of nonprofit professionals and community
leaders to gather feedback on the case for philanthropic support, a key document essential to the success
of any development effort. Stay tuned as this case evolves into a fully formed document. We are excited to
share our progress with you in the new year!
Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support of our quarterly Review newsletter. We enjoy bringing news of the sisters of Benet Hill Monastery, their ministries, and sharing the richness of how they live out their monastic lives in prayer and healing for the world to all of you.

We are always looking for ways to improve our efforts in communications within the construct of Benedictine values. We are most grateful for your support of these efforts and the recognition you give to the sisters regarding the service they have given and the service they continue to give through their wisdom and presence in the community and the world.

If you would like to receive the Review as an email copy rather than a printed copy, please email me with this request and we can have this completed by the printing of our next Review. We also have Ministry News in the form of email that we can pass on at your request. Please email Gina Berger at aberger@benethillmonastery.org

Blessings!

---

**Prepare for Advent**

**Journeying Through Advent**

**Praying with Sacred Art ~ Visio Divina**

**Class Description:** As we journey together through the Gospels with icons, illuminations from the Saint John’s Bible and other works of sacred art, we will learn to “See the Divine” with new eyes.

**Wednesdays:** Dec. 2 - Dec. 23, 2015
9:30 am to 11:00 am

**Fee:** $65

**Register for classes on the website.**
www.benethillmonastery.org

Look for “Events” and find the date.

---

**Advent Retreat**

**Miracles: Gestures of Divine Presence**

**Retreat Description:** Join us for our annual Advent Retreat as we take time to reflect on the place of miracles in our lives, their power, mystery and controversy. During Advent, we are encouraged to renew our awareness of God’s promise of salvation as we anticipate the celebration of the coming of the Christ. The gift of Advent is in our quiet preparations for this joyous celebration.

**Contact:** Ana Cloughly, OSB, Facilitator: sana@benethillmonastery.org
719-633-0655 Ext. 150

**Fee:** $40

---

**The Truth About Islam**

**With Arshad Yousufi**

**Class Description:** Our founder, Saint Benedict mandates us to “Seek Peace and Pursue It” and “Never turn away from anyone who needs your love.” Inspired by these mandates, the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery are hosting a six-week series of talks given by Arshad Yousufi (a leader in our local Colorado Springs Islamic Community) to dispel the myriad distortions, misconceptions and misrepresentations surrounding the faith of our Islamic sisters and brothers.

In a spirit of reverence and respect, we invite you to join our community for thoughtful and honest conversation about the basic beliefs of Islam as well as addressing the more difficult questions that face our world today.

**Arshad Yousufi** is a well-known leader in the Colorado Springs Muslim community. He is a past president of the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs and is currently their spokesperson and a member of their Board of Trustees; he also occasionally delivers sermons at the local mosque. His involvement in Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue goes back many years, including panel discussions with Bishop Emeritus Richard Hanifen. Yousufi is a retired electrical engineer. He was born in India, grew up in Pakistan, lived in the UK, and is a naturalized US citizen.

**Mondays:** Nov. 16 - Dec. 21, 2015
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**Fee:** Donations Accepted

Register for classes on the website.
www.benethillmonastery.org

Look for “Events” and find the date.